

## Life Sketch of

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cummings

Joseph William Cummings, son of John J. and Sophia Johnson Cummings, was born in Heber City, Utah, on June 6, 1874. As a boy, Joseph was in the cattle business with his father and loved to ride the range and round up the cattle in the fall. He was known as Joe to all who knew him.

Mary Ann Buys Cummings, daughter of Edward and Celestia Bronley Buys, was born January 17, 1875 in Buysville. This town is now known as Daniels, Utah.

On December 1, 1897, Joseph William Cummings married Mary Ann Buys in the Salt Lake City Latter-Day Saint Temple. Mary Ann had been his sweetheart for many years, and they had lived side by side and had grown up together. To this couple nine children were born. Eight of these children are still living. They are Joseph Buys, Wallace, Edward, Nela, Celestia, Sophia, Monroe, John Douglas, and Phyllis. They also reared two grandchildren, Joan and Erighan.

In 1903 Joe went into the butchering business. His was the first butcher shop in Wasatch County; later he sold it to Mr. Andrew Voyt. Then he went into the sheep business and was one of the leading sheepmen of Heber Valley.

Joe was a devoted husband and father. He loved children and outdoor sports, such as fishing and hunting; and his friends knew him as a kind and generous man, husband, and father.

Cattle man

He always took his wife and family with him in the summertime to the sheep herd. There they all enjoyed themselves very much and looked forward to this event every year.

Joe was always with his boys and loved to take them fishing and hunting whenever he went. He was unable to do this the last five years of his life.

Mary Ann was a devoted wife and mother. She was loved by everyone who knew her because she was a kind and generous person who always helped others when they were in need. She loved to have people come to her home.

This wonderful lady loved to work in the church and was very active in Relief Society. She was an excellent cook and housekeeper and was devoted to her children whom she loved very much.

Mary Ann died April 30, 1933. After she died, Joe was very lonely because they had always been together.

Joe died September 26, 1937. They are both buried in the Reber City Cemetery.

THOMAS HARMON  
CUMMINGS AND  
SUSAN L. ALEXANDER



1. Thomas H. Cummings, the eighth child of Isaac and Sarah Jones Cummings, was born in Heber, May 19, 1875. He married Susan L. Alexander. She was born February 24, 1880, at Vernal, Utah, and was the fourth child of Henry Miles and Sarah Jane Ross Alexander. To this union was born one son, Thomas Rex Cummings. They made their home where Ralph and Luella Johnson now reside. 321

*cattleman*

Thomas worked as a surveyor and also worked with his father and brothers in the cattle industry. Besides the responsibility of their own home and baby, they helped Susan's father care for her motherless brothers and sisters. This had been her task for several years before her marriage.

The happy father and mother, with love and harmony abiding in their household, enjoyed each other and the comfort of their little son for six months. Since a young man, Thomas Cummings had suffered ill health. This condition steadily grew worse, and after three years of happiness this little home was marred by the death of the father, July 1, 1901.

Hearbroken and realizing the responsibility of rearing a son, Susan took her sister Lelia into her home to help care for the baby. She found work at the Startup Candy Co. in Provo, Utah.

2. Two years later she married Joseph S. Cummings on October 30, 1903. Joseph was born June 19, 1877, in Heber, and he was the brother of her former husband and son of Isaac and Sarah J. Cummings.

They continued to make their home at the same place she started her first happy married life. Here three daughters were born, Luella, Nellie and Jennie. Although the father was very proud of his daughters, he never forgot there was a small boy in the family circle, whom he always treated as his own child. Joseph and his wife then



purchased the old Cummings home on Main Street. This house was built by Susan's father, Henry M. Alexander. Here they lived and enjoyed life with their family of four for several years.

Joseph, with his brothers, was very successful raising cattle and was prominent in civic affairs. After ten years of happiness

# WILLIAM CUMMINGS AND MARY ANN MECKS CUMMINGS



William Cummings, born July 30, 1835, in Gibson County, Tennessee, son of John and Rachel Canarda Cummings. William married Mary Ann Meeks (born November 23, 1844, daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes Meeks) October 23, 1861, at Provo, Utah. Died January 28, 1922, at Kanosh, Utah.

William Cummings was the son of John and Rachel Canarda Cummings, born in Gibson County, Tennessee, July 30, 1835. He came to Utah with his parents in the John Maxwell company.

In the fall of 1857 William went up the Provo River with Joseph Parker, where they were trapping beaver, and came into the Provo Valley. They stayed there all winter and trapped. In the spring they built four cabins. That summer William Cum-

mings, Joseph Parker, Andrew Ross, William Meeks, and William Wall brought their livestock into the valley and wintered them on Meek's Bottom.

During the winter of 1859-60 these men moved to Center Creek and built a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon. William Cummings plowed the first ground in this valley. In 1860, 17 families moved to Provo Valley, among them being the parents of William and John Cummings.

William joined in the Black Hawk War. He had learned to talk with the Indians and acted as an interpreter. Chief Tabby, with a group of Indians, called at his home and demanded he make a treaty. He took the Indians to an official who was plowing a field and there a final treaty was made. This ended the Indian troubles around Heber.

William Cummings married Mary Ann Meeks, daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes Meeks, October 23, 1861, at Provo, Utah. She was born November 23, 1844.

To them were born the following children: William, Mary Elizabeth, John, Rachel, Nancy Jane, Ada Eveline, Sarah Ann, Mary Ann, Harvey, Isaac, and Eva.

The William Cummings family and Andrew, Thomas and Robert Ross moved to southern Utah and settled at Corn Creek, which was later named Kanosh. William Cummings died January 28, 1922, at Kanosh, Utah.

(Taken from history of Eva Cummings Johnson and "History Book of the Early Utah Pioneers.")

## GEORGE A. FISHER

George A. Fisher was born July 4, 1883,  
at Park City, son of David and Mary Ann

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McDonald Fisher. He married Annie McMillan in Heber in 1910.

Graduate of the LDS Business College, where he served as associate editor of the school paper, "Land and Blue," for several years. He was managing editor of the Wasatch Weekly, a daily publication. He served as forest ranger in Wasatch and Uintah Counties, from 1906 to 1916. He was a member of the Utah Legislature for Wasatch County in 1917.

George was the organizer and first president of the Heber Horse and Cattle Growers' Assn., member of the Wasatch County school board, past president of the Association of Western Public Land States, executive secretary of the Utah land board, chairman of the Wasatch County Chapter, American Red Cross, from 1917 to 1933. He was an accomplished writer of several published books, stories, prose and poetry. Mr. Fisher operated a farming, sheep and cattle raising, ranch, contracting, motel and store business. He was the founder of the town of Keetley, Wasatch County, in 1922, where he made his home until his death, July 17, 1954.

*cattle raiser*



JOHN FREDRICK AND  
ROSETTA MITCHELL FORRER



John Fredrick Forrer, Jr., son of Fredrick Forrer, Sr., and Carolina Holl.

Born March 19, 1867, Camp Floyd, Utah.

Married Rosetta Mitchell November 16, 1891, in Heber.

Died December 4, 1930, Midway.

Rosetta Mitchell Forrer, daughter of Samuel Mitchell and Elizabeth Tonnar. Born July 25, 1870, in Switzerland. Died November 5, 1955, in Midway.

John Fredrick was a successful farmer and livestock raiser. He was known as a hard worker and earned his living by the sweat of his brow throughout his life.

John and Rosetta were parents of five children: John Fredrick, Jr., Henry H., Karl W., Mrs. Hiltrude Krebs and Mrs. Avilda Hill.

Both John and Rosetta are buried in the Midway Cemetery. — 730

## JOHN WILLIAM GILES

John William Giles, son of William Giles and Christina Carlile, was born March 17, 1869, in Heber City, Utah. From a very humble start as a pioneer boy, he raised to prominence and became a community leader.

On November 23, 1892, in the Logan Temple, he married Rachel Ann Taylor. He was the father of six children: Mrs. John E. Danielson (Ella), Mrs. Earl Smith (May), Taylor, Mont., who married Lorraine Murdock, Mrs. W. C. Wilcox (Sophrona), Mrs. Floyd Kinsey (Viola), and two foster children, Mrs. Leon Ritchie (Elda Robbins) and John Curtis Robbins, who married Glenna Lawrence, were reared in his home. Taylor passed away during the influenza epidemic, while serving as an LDS missionary in the Northern States.

His Church and civic activities were many and successful. He was a city councilman many years and helped organize and was a member of the first board of directors of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce. He served as president of the North Field Irrigation Co. and also as president

*Live stock man*

of the Provo River Water Users' Protective Assn. He was a member of the fire board and served long as a member of the light and power board, during which time he experienced the installation of the "white way" lighting system along Heber City's Main Street. Distinction came to him when he was asked to serve on the Wasatch County fair board and help organize the Wasatch County Fair. He was chairman of the barbecue committee for many years, during which time thousands of people enjoyed delicious barbecued sandwiches prepared by him at "fair time."

He was ward collector and enjoyed planning and helping at the time Heber Second Ward chapel was erected.

He had special enthusiasm and ability in road building, most roads in Wasatch County bearing his marks of improvement.

Without compensation, save the satisfaction and joy of seeing children and friends have paths by which to go to school and to work, early winter mornings found him plowing paths through the deep snow with his home-made plow and trusty team. This service was done over all the city streets.

He had many friends among the Indians. Oftentimes his back yard was a welcome campsite for Uncle Jesse Copperfield and others during their shopping days in Heber. They were always welcome guests at his table for meals. He was the recipient of many Indian gifts and relics because of his acts of friendship and kindness.

He was a pioneer livestock man, riding the range in both winter and summer. An interesting side occupation he enjoyed very much was that of freighting for the Heber Mercantile Co.

He was a true friend, no person ever being turned away hungry from his home or camp.

He died from a sudden heart attack on July 8, 1942.

## RACHEL ANN TAYLOR GILES

The 24th day of September, 1872, heralded the arrival of little Rachel Ann Taylor, the third child born to Mary Horrocks and Joseph Walker Taylor. Ann, born April 11, 1868, died suddenly when a little past a year old. Alice was 2½ when Rachel Ann

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## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

was born and was delighted to have a new little sister.

Father Joseph worked hard to support his little family. He had many plans to provide the best for his two small daughters, but in the late summer, just two years after Rachel's birth, he took pneumonia while herding his cattle in the foothills of Santaquin, Utah, and the illness took his life September 21, 1875.

Grief-stricken, Mother Mary packed her belongings and left Rachel's birth place, Santaquin, to live in Heber, Wasatch County, Utah, where she could be near her parents.

Rachel Ann was unable to attend school until she was eight years old. The loss of her father left the family in serious financial straits and there was little money to spare for education. However, she gratefully attended the old Sleepy Hollow School between the ages of eight and 11.

She herded cows along the ditch banks during her summer vacations, and while she kept her lonely watch she sewed clothes for her little doll from scraps found among her mother's "rug rags." This humble beginning saw her develop into one of the finest seamstresses in Heber Valley.

Mother Mary was industrious, making rugs and carpets to earn a living for her and her three daughters. (After moving to Heber she married William Cook and by him had another daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Mary and William didn't live together long and this left Mary to care for her small children alone as before.) But for all her efforts, she could not meet the ever-growing needs of her family, and Rachel Ann was forced to leave school at the age of 11 to help out. She was employed by President Abram Hatch to clean house and help care for his seven children. She also worked for Tom Hicken, Dave Hicken, and Sarah Buys.

She had little time for recreation, but managed to find time to sing in the ward choir, under the direction of Sam Wing. She had a sweet soprano voice and was a member of the choir 17 years.

Another choir member was John William Giles, a handsome bass singer. Sometimes after choir rehearsal they would join a square dancing group in the "Old Hall" and for a time Rachel could forget the re-

sponsibilities which were heaped upon her young shoulders.

Their friendship grew to love and eventually "Will" proposed. On a cold November day, when she was but 19, they set off in a horse-drawn carriage on a 24-hour journey to Logan, Utah, where they were married in the Logan LDS Temple on November 23, 1892.

The couple made their home in a neat one-room structure on First West and Second South Streets, which was frequently enlarged to meet the needs of their growing family. Two daughters, Ella LaPreal and Annie May; two sons, Taylor and William Montell, and finally two more daughters, Mary Sophrona and Viola, were born of this marriage. They also reared two small children of a nephew, Hyrum W. Robbins, whose wife died from influenza. They were John Curtis and Elda, and they have been to Rachel, William and their family a son and a daughter, a brother and a sister.

Rachel Ann was called to be a Relief Society visiting teacher in August of 1905, when her third daughter, Sophrona, was only eight days old. She served in this position two years, when she was released to become second counselor to Heber Second Ward Relief Society. Because of her faithful service she was soon made first counselor, and in September, 1919, she was set apart as Relief Society president of Heber Second Ward, Wasatch Stake.

During her service in the Relief Society she was frequently called to leave her family (often in the middle of the night) to care for the sick, the dying, and to prepare the dead for burial. She was particularly hard-pressed during the influenza epidemic in 1918.

It was this same epidemic which took the life of her eldest son, Taylor, as he completed his twentieth month as a missionary in the Northern States Mission. His sudden death while in the service of the Lord was a great test of faith for the entire family. But because they had a testimony of the gospel they passed the test with the realization that they were parted from their son and brother for only a short time.

Rachel Ann became well known throughout Wasatch County as a fine and depend-

## HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

able seamstress. Because she was constantly striving for perfection she acquired the exacting arts of cutting, fitting and expert finishing. Her greatest delight is her beautiful cut-work embroidery and her elegant quilting. She has won many blue ribbons at the Wasatch County Fair and at the Utah State Fair. At the age of 81 she was awarded the grand championship ribbon at the Wasatch County Fair for her individual display.

She was widowed in 1942, when a sudden heart attack claimed William, her partner of almost 50 years. Because of her understanding of the teachings of the gospel and her diligence in rearing a good and loyal family she has never been alone. She can honestly say, "I have lived a good life," for she has been faithful to her membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and faithful to her duties as a wife and mother. Her posterity, eight children (including her two "foster" children), 20 grandchildren, and 33 great-grandchildren, look upon her with great love and respect.